


West Independent School District

"With children as its first priority..."

www.westisd.net

Information

From: Dr. Marty Crawford, Superintendent

To: West Intermediate School Parents and WISD Staff
Date: 2/12/2013
Re: West Intermediate School Temporary Evacuation

This morning, West Intermediate School was evacuated temporarily because of a concerning fire from the fertilizer plant located near the school. The evacuation was executed in calm, but serious fashion, where students and staff eventually gathered at West Middle School for 30 minutes or so. The District and WIS were not notified ahead of time that the fertilizer plant was carrying out a controlled burn of pallets and brush.

WIS principal Rob Fleming alerted 911 of the fire, whose dispatcher did not acknowledge a coordinated burn. Mr. Fleming immediately initiated the evacuation procedure and Kevin Maler, West ISD's Transportation Fleet Specialist, along with drivers plucked from campuses, safely coordinated and transported the WIS students to WMS. Students seriously followed directives during the evacuation and teachers and campus support staff were exceptionally professional in supervising and leading the children throughout the departure.

The District has asked emergency service providers for advanced notification in the future when the plant decides to conduct a burn. The District is also requesting the plant provide prior notification as well. The safety of our students and staff is a priority of the West Independent School District. We hope you understand our urgency in evacuating West Intermediate School temporarily this morning and we wanted to champion the effort of our WIS/WISD staff and students who were involved in the procedure this morning.